NOTES FROM PACIFIC COAST OBSERVATORIES.

Note on Comet Holmes.

Search was made for Comet Holmes with the 36-inch telescope on several nights before its rediscovery by photography by Professor Wolf, on August 28, 1906, and also on several nights in September. The conditions were fairly good, and an object as bright as 15th magnitude ought to have been detected, but the comet was not seen.

According to the corrections to Zwiers's ephemeris given by the photographic observations, the comet's place was certainly examined, and it is therefore safe to conclude that its visual magnitude was below 15.

Poor seeing on moonless nights in late October, when the comet reached its maximum theoretical brightness, and in the following months, prevented further search.

March, 1907. R. G. Aitken.

A Simple Method of Computing the Lengths of Slender Uneclipsed Solar Crescents.

In a note on the contact times of the total solar eclipse of 1898 Professor Campbell called attention to the fact that the times as computed from the data of the different ephemerides were not as consistent as might be wished, but in the case of that eclipse, as well as with earlier ones, there seems to be no evidence of a systematic variation of the observed from the computed times. For the eclipse of May 28, 1900, the preliminary report of the Lick Observatory–Crocker Eclipse Expedition to Georgia shows a difference of some seven or eight seconds between the computed and observed times of second contact. At the eclipse of August 30, 1905, the discrepancy was found to be greater. The Lick Observatory party reported a difference of seventeen seconds for second contact and twenty-three for third, while other observers also found that totality occurred about twenty seconds earlier